

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-77. Canceled.

Claim 78 (Currently Amended). A composition comprising an oligonucleotide with at least 50% nucleotide sequence identity with (TTAGGG)_n ~~and at least one nonhydrolyzable internucleotide linkage~~, wherein at least the first x 3'-nucleotide linkages are hydrolyzable by a 3' to 5' nuclease, wherein n=1 to 20, and wherein x is from ~~about 0~~ 1 to about 10 20.

Claim 79 (Original). The composition of claim 78 wherein the 3' to 5' nuclease is Mre11.

Claim 80 (Original). The composition of claim 78 wherein the oligonucleotide has at least 50% nucleotide sequence identity with TTAGGG.

Claim 81 (Currently Amended). The composition of claim 80 wherein the oligonucleotide is GTTAGGGTTAG (SEQ ID NO. 2).

Claim 82. Canceled.

~~The composition of claim 78 wherein the nonhydrolyzable linkage is a phosphorothioate.~~

Claim 83. Canceled.

Claim 84 (New). A method for inhibiting a 3' to 5' nuclease, the method comprising administering to a cell an oligonucleotide with at least 50% nucleotide sequence identity with (TTAGGG)_n, wherein n=1 to 20, wherein at least the first x 3'-nucleotide linkages are hydrolyzable by the 3' to 5' nuclease and wherein x is from 1 to 20.

Claim 85 (New). The method of claim 84 wherein the 3' to 5' nuclease is Mre11.

Claim 86 (New). The method of claim 84 wherein the oligonucleotide has at least 50% nucleotide sequence identity with TTAGGG.

Claim 87 (New). The use of claim 84 wherein the oligonucleotide is GTTAGGGTTAG (SEQ ID NO. 2).